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# Forest Service NEWS



Pacific Northwest Region  
USDA • Forest Service

Pacific Northwest Region  
Information Office  
319 S.W. Pine Street  
P.O. Box 3623  
Portland, OR 97208

News contacts:  
(503) 326-3605  
Iral Ragenovich

Z-10  
3-8-89

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## POTENTIAL DOUGLAS FIR TUSOCK MOTH OUTBREAK

Portland, March 8--Some areas of Oregon and Washington could experience an outbreak of Douglas-fir tussock moth by 1990, which can cause severe defoliation of Douglas-fir and true firs.

"We plan to monitor the situation and be prepared to act if necessary," said Pacific Northwest Regional Forester James F. Torrence. More intensive monitoring is planned for areas located on the Pine Ranger District on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, the Burns Ranger District on the Malheur National Forest, on private land near Fossil, Oregon, and near Klamath Falls, Oregon, and on the Yakima Indian Reservation in Washington.

Following an outbreak which was detected in 1972, Forest Service research scientists developed a new Douglas-fir tussock moth early warning system. This system indicates the possibility of a building population, and alerts forest managers to intensify sampling and initiate planning for a potential outbreak.

"Three things alert us to potential outbreaks," said Forest Pest Management Director Bill Ciesla. "The primary indicator is high numbers of male moths caught in traps baited with the female tussock moth sex attractant. Another indicator is the occurrence of defoliation on ornamental trees in towns, cities, and farms. The last is the occurrence of outbreak populations in other areas in the western United States and Canada," according to Ciesla. In northern California, Douglas-fir tussock moth defoliation was detected on over 100,000 acres during 1988. The last outbreak in the Pacific Northwest followed an outbreak in northern California by about two years.

Entomologists with USDA Forest Service, Oregon State Department of Forestry and Washington Department of Natural Resources, and forest managers for the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management will work together to monitor the populations. If defoliation of ornamental trees in eastern Oregon or Washington caused by the tussock moth is found, please report it to the nearest extension agent, State Forestry office, or National Forest office. The damage-causing stage of the Douglas-fir tussock moth is a striking looking caterpillar with brightly colored tufts of hair. Two long pencils of black hairs project forward from behind the head, and similar ones also occur at the rear of the larva. There are light brown "brushes" of hairs with red spots along the back, and each side of the body has an orange stripe.





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Pacific Northwest Region  
USDA - Forest Service

News contacts:

Sherry Wagner (503) 326-2971  
Warren Olney (503) 479-5301

Pacific Northwest Region  
Information Office  
319 S.W. Pine Street  
P.O. Box 3623  
Portland, OR 97208

Z-11  
3-15-89

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST PLAN IS FINALIZED

PORTLAND, March 15--Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Jim Torrence announced today the release of the Siskiyou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

"With this Plan, we have built a road map that will guide us into the 21st century, toward a dynamic balance of all of the uses of the Siskiyou National Forest," stated Torrence. "I am convinced that under this final Plan, the people of the Siskiyou National Forest will provide for the best interests of the citizens of the United States."

The release of the Final Plan for the Siskiyou National Forest, which is located in Josephine, Curry and Coos Counties in Oregon, and Del Norte County in California, marks a major milestone in a 10-year process of analysis, planning and documentation. The Siskiyou National Forest Plan calls for a balance in the production of forest goods and services, with protection of the Forest's basic resources such as soil, fish and water.

The Plan establishes a new category of land management, Backcountry Recreation, which provides opportunities for non-motorized and motorized recreation in an undeveloped setting. Twelve areas are allocated to Backcountry Recreation: 11,214 acres in Motorized areas and 29,657 acres in Non-Motorized areas.

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To three existing Botanical areas and three existing Research Natural Areas, 19 new Botanical and 4 new Research Natural areas, comprising a total of 17,808 acres, were added. These will provide exhibits of plants, plant groups, and communities with exceptional botanical and ecological value.

The new Plan establishes an annual sale quantity of 160 million board feet; 95% of the current 168 million board feet. "While recognizing and protecting the special places on the Forest, we also recognize the Nation's timber needs and the role timber plays in community stability," said Torrence. "With fertilization and other intensive timber management techniques, we can sell an average of 160 million board feet annually, forever," Torrence added.

The Plan also recognizes the Forest's extremely valuable spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. Through increased protection of the riparian areas, and stream improvement projects, the Siskiyou will continue to be a major producer of fish for sport and commercial use.

The Forest's scenic values continue to be extremely important, noted Torrence. Visual emphasis will be maintained on the river corridors and high use recreation routes, but it will be reduced in less popular and less scenic areas.

The new Plan also recognizes the mineral values on the Forest and provides for access to these resources, as they become economically operational.

According to Forest Supervisor Ron McCormick, the next step is to implement The Plan and monitor the results. "Our challenge is to work with all interested publics to check the Plan as we put it into operation, to make sure we do what we said we would do, and the Forest responds as anticipated. We will begin to implement the Plan 30 days after notification of the Plan's availability is made in the Federal Register."

Copies of the new Plan and the Record of Decision are available at Siskiyou National Forest offices and the Pacific Northwest Regional Office in Portland. Copies will also be placed in local libraries.

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Pacific Northwest Region  
Information Office  
319 S.W. Pine Street  
P.O. Box 3623  
Portland, OR 97208

News contacts:

Sherry Wagner (503) 326-2971 Z-12  
Fred Page (503) 326-3538 3-16-89

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FOREST SERVICE TIMBER PROGRAM DOLLAR RETURNS INCREASE

PORTLAND, March 16--Regional Forester Jim Torrence released today the results of the Forest Service's timber sale program accounting system for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988. A combined harvest of 5.4 billion board feet from timber sales on the 19 National Forests in Oregon and Washington brought a net return of \$392.1 million. The net return reflects the total \$860 million in revenue less costs and payments of \$187.6 million to local governments for their roads and schools.

"For the second year running, the timber management program on the National Forests in this Region have shown a good return," said Torrence. "With a harvest slightly smaller than last year's, our revenues increased almost \$120 million."

The accounting system--known as Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System (TSPIRS)--was developed in response to Congressional direction and is in its second year of testing on all 122 National Forests in the United States. The Forest Service's goal is to have the system fully functioning by early 1990. Congress directed the development of TSPIRS to respond to concerns about the efficiency of Forest Service timber sales where costs were believed to exceed the benefits.

A timber harvest fact sheet for the Pacific Northwest Region is available from the Director of Timber Management, US Forest Service, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208. Forest reports are available from each of the 19 National Forests.





FACT SHEET  
TIMBER HARVEST IN THE FOREST SERVICE'S PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION  
FISCAL YEAR 1988

The Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service, which covers the states of Oregon and Washington, harvested 5,407 million board feet of timber during the period from October 1, 1987, to September 30, 1988 (FY 1988). The FY 1988 harvest of 5.4 billion board feet showed a slight decrease from the FY 1987 harvest of 5.6 billion board feet.

FY 1988 was the second test year for an information system that provides a new look at financial and economic effects of an annual timber harvest. This new system is known as the "Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System". Based upon a summation of the test data developed by the Region's 19 National Forests, the Pacific Northwest Region generated the following:

A net return of \$392.1 million from revenues of \$859.7 million,

Revenue-sharing payments of \$187.6 million to local governments for road and school programs (counted as an expense),

An estimated 62,600 jobs and \$1,671 million in consumer income in surrounding communities (based on Forest Planning assumptions ranging from 7 to 17 jobs per million board feet), and

An estimated present net value of \$72.5 million (the sum of future benefits and costs that are expected from both the timber and nontimber resources on the acres harvested in FY 1988 discounted at an annual rate of 4 percent).

TSPIRS was developed in response to Congressional direction and is in its second year of testing on all 122 National Forests in the United States. The Forest Service's goal is to have the system fully functioning by early 1990. Congress directed the development of TSPIRS to respond to concerns about the efficiency of timber sales. This system will provide Congress, the Forest Service, and the public, with a tool to assess the financial and economic status of a National Forest's timber sale program.

For further information contact Fred Page at the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service, Multnomah Building, 319 SW Pine Street, Portland, Oregon, 97208-3623, phone (503) 326-3538.

